

4 December 1985
MBK-5014

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service
THROUGH: Chief, Operations Group
SUBJECT: Monthly Report -- Bangkok Bureau -- November 1985

I. GENERAL

STAT A. On the evening of 21 November the bureau had to be evacuated approximately one hour before the normal closing time due to a fire in the two-story section of the Kian Gwan building immediately adjacent to the high-rise portion of the building which houses the bureau. Off-duty associate editor [redacted] happened to be passing by and was probably the first to notice the fire and give the alarm. He called to alert the duty editor at 2320 and also called the fire department. Bureau personnel on duty showed good presence of mind in evacuating the office in a calm and orderly way.

STAT The bureau chief, who had an excellent view of the fire from his new apartment across the street from the bureau, got together with [redacted] after the evacuation, and after determining that all personnel were safe, called the Wire to notify Headquarters of what had happened. The Wire notified various bureaus in the area to the possibility they might have to pick up what Bangkok coverage they could in the event the bureau was unable to open the following day. The fire department did a good job in containing the fire. However, early indications were that no one would be allowed into the building on the following day, and authorities also shut off all power from the auxiliary generator fearing further possible complications from water from the fire hoses getting into the electrical system. It turned out better than expected and the bureau was able to open on the 22nd with no adverse effects other than a slight smell of smoke that lingered for a day or two.

B. During the month the bureau began to receive the Vietnamese party paper NHAN DAN directly from the Australian Embassy in Hanoi. We have been receiving shipments weekly and all indications are that this will be a reliable arrangement. The lag in receipt time is from 7 to 14 days with the best time so far being 4 days for the 28 November issue received on 2 December. Efforts are underway to see if the Australians can also supply us with the army paper QUAN DOU NHAN DAN.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. The noncommunist Cambodian clandestine "Voice of the Khmer", which was first picked up last month, began regular programming with four hours of news and commentary daily. After watching the radio carefully it was decided to put three casts on regular coverage. The fourth is very poorly heard and generally repeats earlier material.

2. The bureau formally entered the television age when for the first time regular television programming was put on permanent coverage. The bureau is now monitoring the main evening Thai newscast daily from Bangkok's channel 9.

B. Communications

The bureau had occasion to use its altroute a number times due to technical problems at the Embassy TCU and also at the switch in Clark. While teething problems remain as communicators become more familiar with our use of the route through State Department commo, November saw the first successful use of the bureau's altroute in many months. Much of the credit goes to bureau engineer [] who patiently worked out the necessary procedures and coordination among all concerned.

C. Lateral Services

1. Five items were processed at the request of the American Embassy in Vientiane, Laos.

2. One item from the Rangoon Domestic Service on the new demonetization law in Burma was processed at BBC request during the month.

D. Technical

1. The bureau took delivery of a new Nissan Urvan during the month.

2. The following non-expendable equipment was received during the month:
3 ea Sony VO-5630 video cassette recorders, serial numbers 26839, 26791, and 23371.

3. The following TRG antenna multicouplers were transferred to Nicosia Bureau at Headquarters request: 3 ea model HF-2-50, serial numbers 9, 33, and 38; 2 ea model SU-1-30-50, serial numbers 027 and 069; 6 ea model SU-1-30-75 serial numbers 108, 110, 111, 112, 113, and 135.

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. Well-deserved promotions were given to the following: staff editor [] to GS-9, Cambodian monitor [] to FBN-9, and Thai/Chinese monitor [] to FBN-8.

2. A daughter, [] was born to Cambodian Unit Chief []

3. On the 22d, Cambodian monitor [] married []
[] Most bureau personnel were able to attend a nice reception for them on the 24th at the Bangkok Hilton.

IV. VISITS

Chief of Operations Group [] from 31 October to 5 November.

Attachment: Monthly Production Report

Chief, Bangkok Bureau

BANGKOK BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 1985

I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

| | |
|---|---------|
| TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH: | 618,470 |
| TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH: | 277,340 |
| TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH: | 1,393 |

II. INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE:

(minutes or issues per week)

| <u>BROAD-CASTS</u> | <u>PRESS AGENCIES</u> | <u>PUBLI-CATION</u> |
|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 21,235 | 20,420 | 254.00 |
| min. | min. | issues |

III. OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES:

(publishable words per month)

AUSTRALIA

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------|-------|
| Melbourne Overseas Service in English | 19,780 | |
| Sydney THE AUSTRALIAN in English | | 1,000 |
| Sydney THE BULLETIN in English | | 1,170 |

BANGLADESH

| | | |
|--|-------|-----|
| Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali | 1,250 | |
| Dhaka Domestic Service in English | 4,320 | |
| Dhaka Overseas Service in Bengali | 440 | |
| Dhaka Overseas Service in English | 190 | |
| Dhaka BSS in English | | 680 |
| Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English | | 990 |

BRUNEI

| | | |
|---|--|-------|
| Kuala Belait THE BORNEO BULLETIN in English | | 1,950 |
|---|--|-------|

BURMA

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------|--|
| Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese | 13,050 | |
| Rangoon Domestic Service in English | 420 | |

| BROAD- CASTS | PRESS AGENCIES | PUBLI- CATION |
|-----------------|-------------------|------------------|
|-----------------|-------------------|------------------|

CAMBODIA

| | | |
|---|--------|--------|
| Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian | 33,490 | |
| Phnom Penh SPK in English | | 16,540 |
| Phnom Penh SPK in French | | 7,920 |

CHINA

| | | |
|--|-------|--|
| Beijing International Service in Burmese | 520 | |
| Beijing International Service in Indonesian | 230 | |
| Beijing International Service in Thai | 280 | |
| Beijing in Cambodian to Cambodia | 5,310 | |
| Beijing in Hindi to India | 210 | |
| Beijing in Malay to Malaysia | 2,860 | |
| Beijing in Urdu to India and Pakistan | 2,930 | |

CLANDESTINE

| | | |
|---|--------|--|
| (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian | 22,130 | |
| (Clandestine) Voice of Malayan Democracy in Malay | 11,040 | |
| (Clandestine) Voice of The National Army Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian | 10,600 | |
| (Clandestine) Voice of The People of Malaysia in Malay | 5,780 | |
| (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian | 6,620 | |

INDIA

| | | |
|--|--------|-------|
| Delhi Domestic Service in English | 32,430 | |
| Delhi General Overseas Service in English | 6,230 | |
| Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English | | 1,910 |
| Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English | | 1,450 |
| Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English | | 8,300 |
| Delhi PATRIOT in English | | 640 |
| Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English | | 6,330 |

| BROAD- CASTS | PRESS AGENCIES | PUBLI- CATION |
|-----------------|-------------------|------------------|
|-----------------|-------------------|------------------|

INDIA (continued)

| | | |
|--------------------------------|--|-------|
| Madras THE HINDU in English | | 1,220 |
|--------------------------------|--|-------|

INDONESIA

| | | |
|---|-------|-------|
| Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian | 4,650 | |
| Jakarta International Service in English | 4,360 | |
| Jakarta BERITA BUANA in Indonesian | | 1,630 |
| Jakarta JAKARTA POST in English | | 2,430 |
| Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian | | 1,840 |
| Jakarta MERDEKA in Indonesian | | 470 |
| Jakarta SINAR HARAPAN in Indonesian | | 1,310 |

LAOS

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao | 51,280 | |
| Vientiane KPL in English | | 24,650 |

MALAYSIA

| | | |
|--|--------|-------|
| Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in English | 3,830 | |
| Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in Malay | 4,520 | |
| Kuala Lumpur International Service in English | 14,570 | |
| Kuala Lumpur BERITA HARIAN in Malay | | 3,530 |
| Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English | | 2,110 |
| Kuala Lumpur UTUSAN MALAYSIA in Malay | | 720 |

NEPAL

| | | |
|---|-----|-----|
| Katmandu External Service in English | 460 | |
| Katmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English | | 140 |

PAKISTAN

| | | |
|--|--------|--|
| Karachi Domestic Service in English | 22,540 | |
|--|--------|--|

| | <u>BROAD- CASTS</u> | <u>PRESS AGENCIES</u> | <u>PUBLI- CATION</u> |
|---|-------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| <u>PAKISTAN</u> (continued) | | | |
| Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu | 2,500 | | |
| Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu | 1,120 | | |
| <u>SINGAPORE</u> | | | |
| Singapore Domestic Service in English | 760 | | |
| <u>SRI LANKA</u> | | | |
| Colombo Domestic Service in English | 3,380 | | |
| Colombo International Service in English | 3,540 | | |
| <u>THAILAND</u> | | | |
| Bangkok 1st Army Division Radio in Thai | 6,870 | | |
| Bangkok Army Television Service in Thai | 2,020 | | |
| Bangkok Domestic Service in English | 1,370 | | |
| Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai | 7,850 | | |
| Bangkok Domestic Television in Thai | 380 | | |
| Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in English | 4,940 | | |
| Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai | 2,780 | | |
| Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English | | | 23,220 |
| Bangkok BANGKOK WORLD in English | | | 8,330 |
| Bangkok DAO SIAM in Thai | | | 750 |
| Bangkok MATICHON SUT SAPDA in Thai | | | 980 |
| Bangkok MATICHON in Thai | | | 3,540 |
| Bangkok NAED NA in Thai | | | 4,500 |
| Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai | | | 2,160 |
| Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai | | | 2,320 |
| Bangkok THE NATION in English | | | 24,280 |

| <u>BROAD-</u> | <u>PRESS</u> | <u>PUBLI-</u> |
|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| <u>CASTS</u> | <u>AGENCIES</u> | <u>CATION</u> |

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

| | | |
|-------------------------|-------|--|
| Moscow in | | |
| Burmese to Burma | 1,850 | |
| Moscow in | | |
| Cambodian to Kampuchea | 1,550 | |
| Moscow in | | |
| Indonesian to Indonesia | 2,430 | |
| Moscow in | | |
| Lao to Laos | 430 | |
| Moscow in | | |
| Thai to Thailand | 1,130 | |
| Moscow in | | |
| Urdu to Pakistan | 1,310 | |

UNITED KINGDOM

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|--|
| London BBC World Service in | | |
| English | 490 | |

VIETNAM

| | | |
|--------------------------------|--------|--------|
| Hanoi Domestic Service in | | |
| Vietnamese | 69,930 | |
| Hanoi International Service in | | |
| English | 12,790 | |
| Hanoi International Service in | | |
| Thai | 1,090 | |
| Hanoi VNA in | | |
| English | | 12,330 |
| Hanoi NHAN DAN in | | |
| Vietnamese | | 21,330 |
| Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in | | |
| Vietnamese | | 8,970 |